(a) whether it is a fact that India is seriously lobbying for the seat at Security Council;

(b) if so, what is the present position regarding our nomination to security council;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is severely opposing our candidature and is trying for its own entry;

(d) if so, what lobbying is being done by India with super powers to get an entry into Security Council; and

(e) by when it is likely to be decided about out nomination into the UN body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (e) India presented its candidature to the UN for the permanent membership of the Security Council in 1994, and since then has pursued the objective at the General Assembly, in the Working Group of the U.N. on Security Council Reforms and in bilateral interactions. Discussions on this subject cover complex and contentious issue such as: the size of an expanded council, expansion in the categories of non-permanent and permanent members, the relevant criteria, the question of veto, the procedures for decisions etc. The discussions remain inconclusive. At this stage of discussions, it would be difficult to assess definitely the position of an individual country regarding candidatures.

Several countries, including most of the Permanent Members, have openly expressed support for India's candidature, either in the UN or in the context of bilateral exchanges. However, it is difficult to anticipate any specific time frame for the reform or expansion of the Security Council.

Visit of National Security Advisor to New York

506. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's National Security Advisor and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister visited New York few weeks ago;

(b) if so, whether he addressed a Jewish Organisation there;

(c) whether he suggested there that India, Israel and U.S.A. had some sort of an institutional arrangement/pact to share intelligence;

(d) whether this pronouncement had Government's approval; and

(e) whether this means a departure from our traditional policy in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor visited Washington D.C. and New York in May 2003.

(b) He addressed the American Jewish Committee on 8 May, 2003 in Washington D.C., not in New York.

(c) He had suggested that all democratic countries, including India, Israel and the United States, should form a viable alliance against terrorism and develop the multilateral mechanisms to counter it.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

Deals/MoUs with U.S.A.

507. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the deals and Memorandum of Understanding entered into between U.S.A. and India during the visits to U.S.A. of dignitaries from India recently including the Prime Minister;

(b) the details of the talks with the U.S.A. in the recent past in regard to the wide-ranging areas to further our relationship with U.S.A. post Pokhran-II; and

(c) the response of the U.S.A. Government to Prime Minister and other dignitaries visits and the impending benefits to be reaped in this regard?